

August 25, 1972

Dr. Roger E. Batsel, Director
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory
University of California
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, California 94550

Dear Dr. Batsel:

As you undoubtedly know, interest in the rehabilitation of Eniwetok Atoll has gained considerable momentum since April of this year when the United States publicly promised its return to the Trust Territory by the end of calendar 1973. Recently the General Manager assigned overall coordinating responsibility for AEC actions at Eniwetok to the Assistant General Manager for Military Application. In turn, the AGMA has indicated that he intends that the Nevada Operations Office take full responsibility for all AEC field operations associated with the rehabilitation. Even more recently, we have an indication from the Office of the AGMA that adequate funding will shortly be made available to support a comprehensive radiological survey this fall.

Our very preliminary surveys have shown that we face a most difficult radiological situation which will require the best efforts of representatives of a number of scientific disciplines. It seems clear also that we may expect this activity to come under close scrutiny by the United States scientific community and perhaps even by an international commission of some sort. For these reasons, I feel that it is essential that we build our plans upon a scientifically valid rationale and execute them under sound scientific leadership. I would be most appreciative if the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory would provide a technical director for the Eniwetok effort. His exact relationships I think would best be worked out between the individual you nominate and my Assistant Manager for Operations, Roger Ray, under whose cognizance this effort will be conducted. Should you wish to clarify any other details of this request, please telephone me.

Very truly yours,

Mehlon E. Gates
Manager

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